

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-20

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CI, ELAB

SUBJ: CHILEAN STEELWORKERS DISAFFILIATE FROM IMF

1. MOST SANTIAGO PAPERS AND SEVERAL RADIO STATIONS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO SEPT 26 ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF LARGE STEELWORKERS' UNION (CIA. ACERO DEL PACIFICO - CAP) PEDRO BRICENO, THAT HIS UNION IS DISAFFILIATING FROM INTERNATIONAL METALWORKERS' FEDERATION -- IMF. BRICENO AND OTHER LEADERS IN PRESS CONFERENCE INDICATED DECISION HAD BEEN DIFFICULT AND UNDER DEBATE FOR TWO MONTHS. PRIMARY REASONS FOR DECISION WERE NUMBER OF HIGHLY CRITICAL AND "FALSE" PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY IMF ASST GEN SECY DANIEL BENEDICT, AND IMF REFUSAL TO SEAT LEGITIMATE CHILEAN DELEGATION AT IMF CONGRESS LAST JULY 2-8. BRICENO POINTED OUT THAT PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF CAP UNION AS WELL AS CHILEAN DELEGATION HAD BEEN ELECTED TO OFFICE SEPTEMBER 6, 1973, FIVE DAYS BEFORE FALL OF ALLENDE, AND NOT APPOINTED BY CHILEAN JUNTA AFTER SEPTEMBER 11 COUP, AS EXILED CUT LEADERS HAD CLAIMED IN IMF DELEGATE CREDENTIAL HEARING.

2. COMMENT: BRICENO WITH FOUR OTHER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS CAPTURED CONTROL OF THIS UNION IN SEPT 6, 1973 ELECTIONS (SANTIAGO 4078 OF 1973). PARTIES IN OPPOSITION TO UP WON TOTAL OF 6 OFFICES, AND COMMUNISTS WON 2, SOCIALISTS 2 AND RADICALS

1. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, OF ALL THOSE ORIGINALLY ELECTED, ONLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONE COMMUNIST IS NOT NOW SERVING ON PRESENT EXEC COMMITTEE

OF UNION. BENEDICT'S RECENT CHARGES THAT PRESENT LEADERSHIP
IS JUNTA-APPOINTED AND NOT LEGITIMATE THUS SEEM UNFOUNDED.

3. THIS DISAFFILIATION ACTION IS IMPORTANT IN THAT IT SHOWS
WHAT APPEARS TO BE REASONABLE CHILEAN REACTION TO UNJUSTIFIED
CRITICISM. CAP LEADERS, OF COURSE, NO DOUBT BELIEVE THEIR
ACTION WILL PLEASE GOC.
POPPER

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